



**COUNSELING 409: GROUP LEADERSHIP  
TENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015  
T/TR 2:00-3:15 PM; SS 150**

**Instructor:** Melissa McCarthy, M.A., LPC, LCDC-Intern, Doctoral Student

**Office Location:** N/A

**Office Hours:** By appointment before and after class

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5637 Counseling Department Number

**University Email Address:** mmccarthy1@leomail.tamuc.edu

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

**Textbook(s) Required:** Johnson, D.W., & Johnson, F.P. (2006). *Joining together: Group theory and group skills* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Optional:** N/A

**Course Description:** Three credit hours. This course will focus on the literature on groups, group dynamics and leadership. The class will also offer personal experiences in individual growth through group participation.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The student will *become familiar with and be able to identify* on examinations:

1. group techniques and theory
2. the roles of a group leader and members
3. group dynamics
4. current and future trends in group counseling.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance:** All students are required to attend class. You are to notify the instructor prior to any **unavoidable absence by email**. Read the TAMU-C attendance policy outlined in the Undergraduate catalog. **Absences will be reflected in your grade; after three absences your final grade will be dropped one letter grade.** Students are responsible for all material covered in class, the text, handouts, etc., so regular attendance is necessary. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. **Tardiness is not tolerated – after attendance is taken (10 minutes after class start time) anyone not present will be considered absent.**

2. **Class Participation:** Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion and make contributions to class topics.
3. **Complete ALL assignments on Time:** Late assignments will only be accepted with the permission of the instructor, and in such cases points will be deducted. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss special considerations/modifications of assignments or completion of missed work.
4. **Turn ALL cell phones on SILENT:** Students who fail to do so may be asked to leave the class. I expect the student to be focused and prepared for class. Cell phones and other technological devices will be allowed in class, however not for purposes other than coursework.
5. Arrive to class on time and **do not pack up early**. If you know ahead of time you will be late or will need to leave early please notify me by email at least a day in advance. **There will be a 10 minute grace period after class begins. After 10 minutes the door will be closed and NO ONE will be allowed to enter class after this time.**

### **Readings, Quizzes, and Participation**

- **Class Participation:** Students are expected to make active and personal efforts to contribute to class, in order to gain full benefit of the material covered. **This is a very experiential class and in order to gain full benefit of the material covered, participation is essential.**
- "All students enrolled shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (This includes all cell phones off, no texting during class, pagers off, no disruptive behavior, etc.) (Student Guide Handbook).
- **Readings and quizzes:** Readings will be assigned each week. Students will be given a quiz over all assigned readings at the beginning of each class. No quizzes will be given if, at discretion of instructor, class is fully involved in discussion.

### **Assignments**

- **Complete ALL Assignments on Time:** Students are expected to complete all assignments as instructed and **ON TIME**. Late assignments will **ONLY** be accepted with the prior permission of the course instructor, and in such cases, points will be deducted. In **all** cases, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss special considerations/modifications of assignments or completion of missed or late work. If absent for assignment due date, please submit assignment prior to absence by email or hand delivery.
- Always make sure you have an **extra copy of your assignment yourself**, in case it gets misplaced in the hand-off process.

## **Examinations and Assignments:**

### **1. Examinations:**

There will be three (3) examinations scheduled during the course of the semester covering the material discussed in class and from your assigned readings in the textbook.

### **2. Journal Article Review:**

Each student will choose a journal article related to group therapy and write a brief summary and critique (2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt type) covering the

following **with a copy of the article attached to review**: The student will be present the article review to the class. The presentation will be 15-30 minutes including visual aids if desired. The presenter is responsible for student interaction during the presentation.

**Students will be graded on:**

- a. Overview of the article
- b. Personal critique of information presented
- c. How this information can be applied to development of group work.
- d. Verbal presentation of the article

**3. Group Activities:**

Group activities will be assigned every Thursday to practice group counseling skills. These activities will be part of the participation grade.

**Students will be graded on:**

- a. Active engagement in the activity
- b. Disclosure
- c. Knowledge of the material

**4. Extra Credit Assignment:**

Watch the movie 12 Angry Men (with Henry Fonda) and write a 2-3 page paper in APA style describing specific groups dynamics and theories we have discussed in class. This assignment does not take the place of any other assignment. It will only be graded if all other assignments have been completed.

**5. Grading:**

<b>Examinations (3 @ 50pts each) 150 pts</b>	<b>350 - 400 A</b>
<b>Journal Article Review 50 pts</b>	<b>300 - 349 B</b>
<b>Group Activities 100 pts</b>	<b>250 - 299 C</b>
<b>Participation/Attendance 100 pts</b>	<b>200 - 249 D</b>
	<b>&lt;249 F</b>

**Total Points 400pts**

**Extra Credit Assignment 30 pts**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library- Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

## CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Texas A&M University-Commerce students are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. (See Section A13:12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce procedures).

## UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

Student Conduct

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Caveat: This syllabus is a guide and outline for the progression of the class. Changes may be made for due dates, assignments, and other items. All changes are the prerogative of the instructor.**

	COUN 409		
DATE	TOPIC	READING DUE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
9/1	Introductions, Syllabus		
9/3	Group Dynamics	Ch.1	
9/8	Experiential Learning	Ch. 2	
9/10	Group Activities		
9/15	Group Goals, Social Interdependence, & Trust	Ch. 3	
9/17	Group Activities		
9/22	Communication Within Groups	Ch. 4	
9/24	Library		
9/29	Leadership	Ch.5	TAKE HOME EXAM 1-5
10/1	Grade Exam & Group Activities		
10/6	Using Power	Ch. 6	JOURNAL ARTICLE REVIEW DUE
10/8	Group Activities		
10/13	Decision Making	Ch. 7	

<b>10/15</b>	Group Activities		
<b>10/20</b>	Controversy & Creativity	Ch. 8	
<b>10/22</b>	Group Activities		
<b>10/27</b>	Managing Conflicts of Interest	Ch. 9	
<b>10/29</b>	Group Activities		
<b>11/3</b>	Valuing Diversity	Ch. 10	<b>TAKE HOME EXAM 6-10</b>
<b>11/5</b>	Grade Exam & Group Activities		<b>***TCA?</b>
<b>11/10</b>	Article Presentation		
<b>11/12</b>	Article Presentation		
<b>11/17</b>	Article Presentation		
<b>11/19</b>	Article Presentation		
<b>11/24</b>	Cooperative Learning in the Classroom	Ch. 11	
<b>11/26</b>	THANKSGIVING		
<b>12/1</b>	Leading Growth & Counseling Groups	Ch. 12	
<b>12/3</b>	Group Activities		
<b>12/8</b>	Team Development, Team Training	Ch. 13	<b>EXTRA CREDIT DUE</b>
<b>12/10</b>	Group Activities		
<b>12/15</b>	Final Review		<b>TAKE HOME EXAM 11-13</b>
<b>12/17</b>	Grade Exam		